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MONTANA FARM LABOR REPORT

1966

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EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Beet Pile - Billings Area
(photo by Billings Gazette)

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PREPARED BY FARM LAB
OF THE MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

JESS C. FLETCHER, DIRECTOR

A DIVISION OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

EDGAR H. REEDER, CHAIRMAN

JAMES J FLAHERTY, COMMISSIONER

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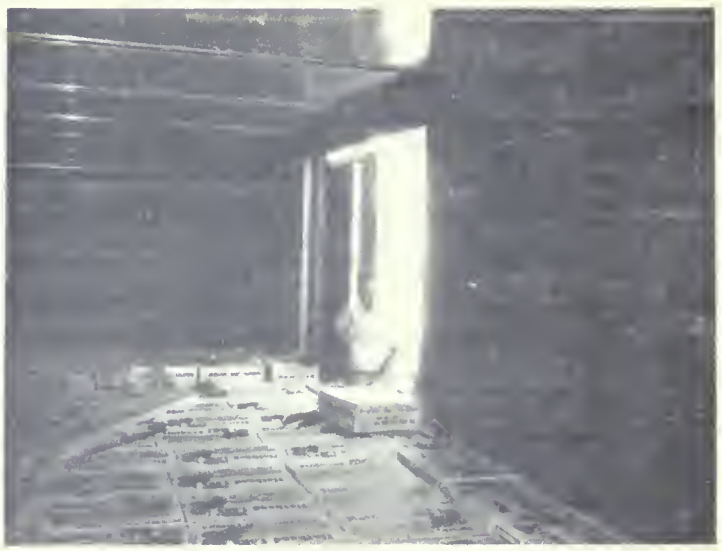
Polson Local Office Area

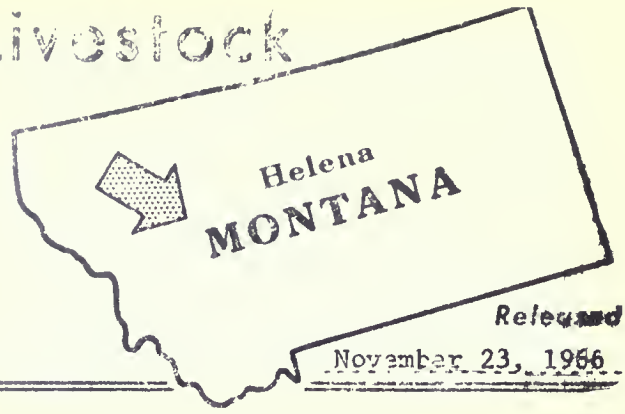


The Flathead Cherry crop has again produced a bumper crop. 25 car loads of various types of sweet cherries were shipped from this warehouse in Polson.

The installation of new equipment has accounted for the speed in processing. It took a total of 23 minutes from the time the cherries were brought to the plant until they were processed and in the refrigerated box cars ready for shipment. The average load per hour was 2½ tons. In this new plant, the cherries were never touched by hand after being picked. This was not the largest crop ever shipped, but it was the largest one put out in such a short period of time.

Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Statistical Reporting Service
and
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS



Released
November 23, 1966

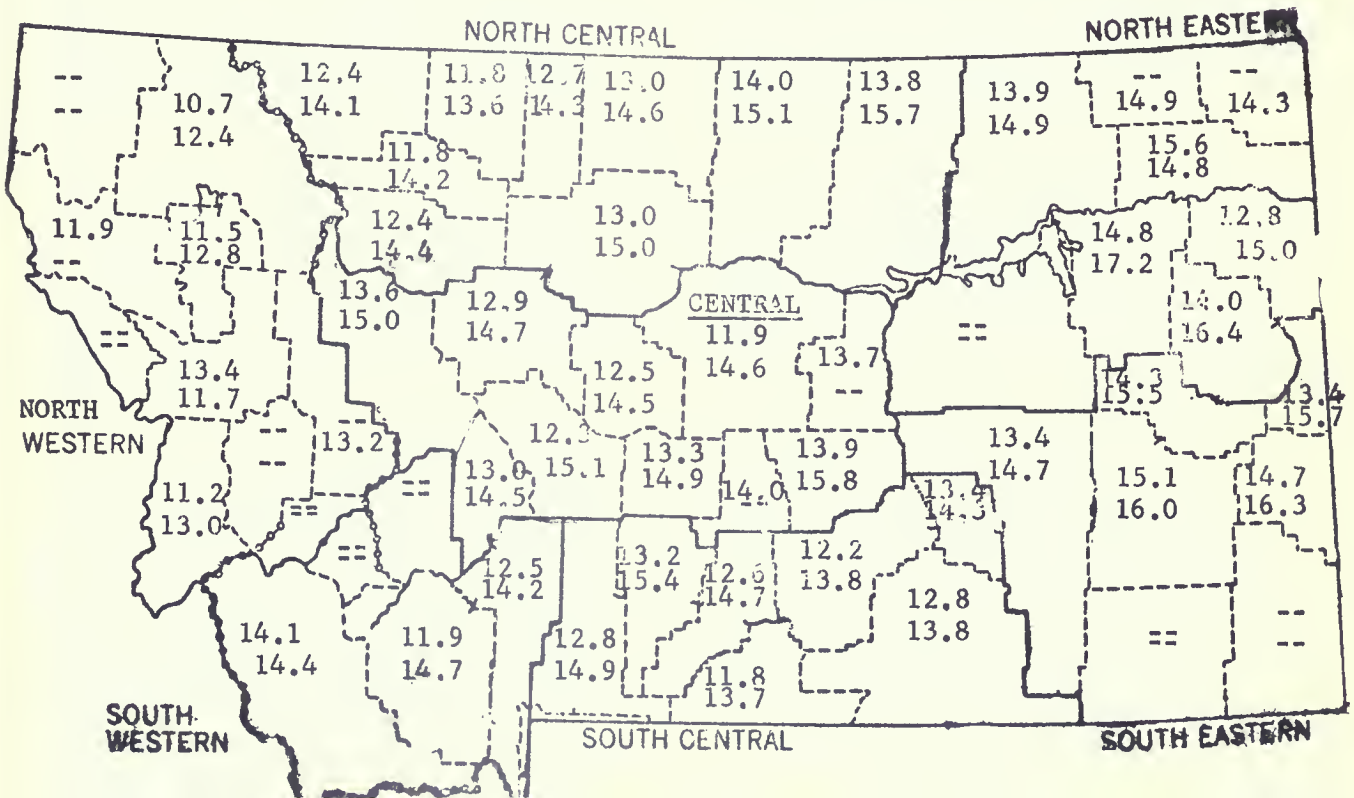
MONTANA WHEAT PROTEIN 1966--REPORT NO. 3 - FINAL

PROTEIN IN 1966 WINTER WHEAT CROP 1 POINT HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR The protein content of Montana's 1966 winter wheat crop averaged 12.6 percent. This is based on 10,288 samples tested during August, September and October at grain testing laboratories in Great Falls, Bozeman and Harlowton, and compares with 11.6 percent for the corresponding months a year ago.

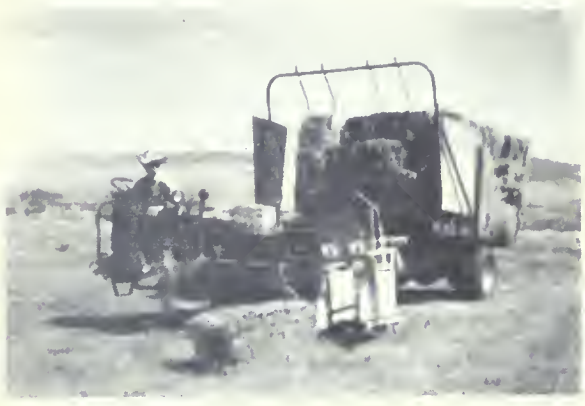
All districts except the northwest had higher protein content than in 1965. The southeastern district with 14.6 percent had the highest average which compares with 11.9 last year. Averages in other districts for August-October this year and last year are as follows: northeast, 14.2 and 11.7; northcentral, 12.5 and 12.0; southwest, 12.5 and 11.4; central, 12.5 and 11.1; southcentral, 12.5 and 10.8; northwest, 10.9 and 11.1. Counties with high averages based on more than 5 tests were: Custer, 15.1; McCone, 14.8; Fallon, 14.7; Prairie, 14.3; Beaverhead, 14.1; and Blaine, Dawson and Golden Valley, 14.0. Tests of 14.0 percent or more protein were recorded for 22.4 percent of all winter wheat samples.

PROTEIN UP IN 1966 SPRING WHEAT CROP Protein in this year's spring wheat crop, excluding durum, averaged 14.7 percent. This was based on 4,945 tests made during August-October, and compares with 13.9 percent a year ago. Protein was highest in the southeastern district which at 15.9 percent was up 2 points from 1965. Averages in other districts for August-October this year along with last year's tests are as follows: northeast, 15.8 and 13.9;

PROTEIN CONTENT OF 1966 CROP MONTANA WHEAT 1/



Anaconda Local Office Area



"Fueling them up" on the Mt. Haggin Livestock Company Ranch east of Anaconda. Shown is one of the three balers used by the ranch. This is the first year that the ranch did not put up any loose hay.

The Mt. Haggin Ranch is the largest single ranch in this area with a total of 215,000 acres within its boundaries. Four thousand acres of farm land is contracted out, but even so they employ twenty-five men the year round to operate the ranch.

The Mt. Haggin Ranch was originally a sheep ranch and ran as high as twelve thousand head of sheep. But in recent years has gone to cattle also, and at the present time have 4,100 cattle and 3,500 sheep. To winter this many livestock, they harvest 7,000 ton of hay plus small grains. To harvest this hay they operate four mowers and one swather, two rakes, three balers, and two automatic bale picking and stacking machines. It was just three years ago when the first of these machines was purchased by the farm contractor, Mel Beck, who contracts the farming of the 4,000 acres from the Mt. Haggin Ranch. It's proven success in eliminating the hard-to-get bale bucking crews led the Mt. Haggin Ranch to purchase two machines for this season. The initial cost of the machine "$10,500" makes it too expensive for the smaller ranchers, but for a ranch like the Mt. Haggin, it is proving to be a large saving.

As the ranch has gone more to specialized machinery, the securing of qualified machinery operators becomes more of a problem. Twenty-five extra men are needed for the haying operation and each one must be able to operate machinery. Due to the cost of these machines the employer would rather have it sit idle rather than abuse it with an inexperienced man. This happened at the Mt. Haggin Ranch this season when we were unable to locate an experienced baler operator. The baler sat for ten days until an experienced man was found. With more and more machinery being used, more of our young men need to be trained in the proper operation and care of these machines. This can possible be done through one of our government training programs.

Glendive Local Office Area

Beet Harvest

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Dillon Local Office Area

Haying Operations

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

COOPERATING
WITH
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
MONTANA STATE COLLEGE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WEATHER BUREAU

Series 1966
No. 14

FOR WEEK ENDING May 24, 1966 HELENA, MONTANA RELEASED May 24, 1966

LATE FROSTS DAMAGE CROPS Frosts, late last week, again damaged sugar beets, potatoes and alfalfa in some western sections and elsewhere in the State. Heaviest damage was reported in Missoula and Ravalli counties west of the Divide, and Blaine county in north central Montana where freezing temperatures blackened potato vines to the ground and killed additional stands of sugarbeets. In other areas, plant growth was generally retarded by the cool weather. Shortages of soil moisture persisted last week west of the Divide, in Hill and Blaine counties, and across most of southeastern Montana. Supplies of range feed continued short in these areas but were mostly adequate in other districts.

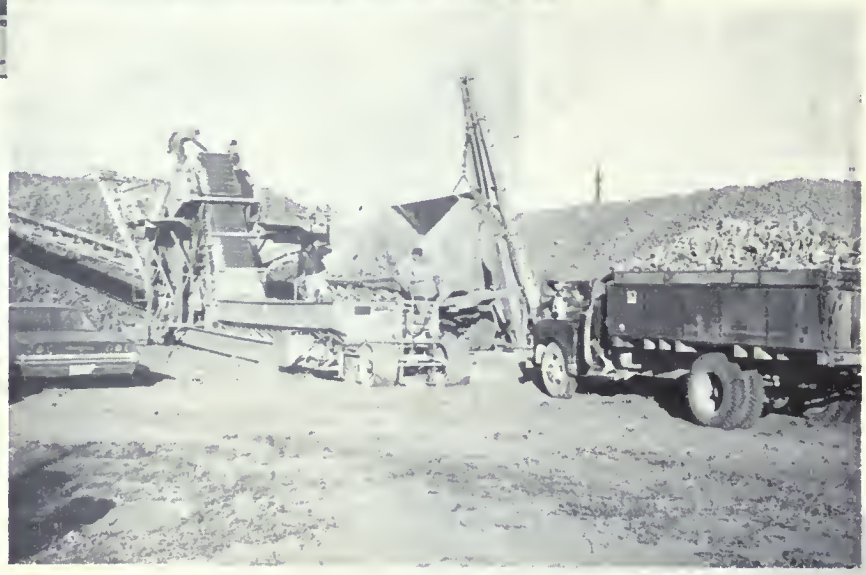
CONDITION OF WINTER WHEAT SATISFACTORY Condition of winter wheat was mostly good but in some areas stands are only in fair condition as a result of lack of moisture and wind damage. Spring seeding continued with only minor interruptions, and by May 20, 95 percent of the spring wheat and barley and 85 percent of the oats acreage had been sown. Planting of sugarbeets was 90 percent completed; flaxseed, corn, and potatoes were half finished; and 20 percent of the dry bean acreage was in. These rates of progress were about a week ahead of 1965 for small grains and only slightly ahead of last year for other crops.

FOR WEEK ENDING August 16, 1966 HELENA, MONTANA RELEASED August 16, 1966

HARVEST MAKING GOOD PROGRESS Cooler weather and light rains delayed harvest temporarily last week. However, harvest of small grains and hay was still one week to 10 days ahead of last year's pace. By August 12, combining of winter wheat was 65 percent completed. Spring wheat was 25 percent harvested; oats, 40 percent; barley and second cutting alfalfa, 45 percent; and wild hay harvest was 80 percent finished. Yields of spring wheat are generally better than expected earlier despite hot weather in recent weeks, which hastened maturity. Harvest of western Montana's record-tieing sweet cherry crop was virtually complete..

SOIL MOISTURE CONTINUES SHORT Soil moisture continued short in all but a few counties in the northern third of the State. Supplies of irrigation water were generally short in the western quarter and in the southeast but remained adequate elsewhere. The larger projects are generally supplying near normal volumes of irrigation water, but many reservoirs are at the lowest level in recent years. Shortages of range feed exist in a number of southern and southwestern counties, and crop aftermath may need to be utilized at earlier than usual dates. Many small stockwater reservoirs and ponds are dry and the larger ones are low. Grasshoppers are an increasing menace to ranges and crops, and additional efforts to control them may be required.

Sidney Local Office Area



Beet Harvest Activity

Holly Sugar Co.

Great Falls Local Office Area

Temporary Office - Fort Benton

Part I
ANNUAL SUMMARY

PLANNING

A. Changes in Administrative Organization

No changes were made in administrative organization during the 1966 season. The O & M "plans of action" are prepared by each local office on a quarterly basis, thereby enabling each office to prepare pre-season plans thirty days prior to the seasonal activities.

B. Pre-Season and In-Season Meetings

State and local office Farm Placement personnel participated in growers' and processors' pre-season meetings.

Farm Placement personnel, as heretofore, continued to work throughout the year with county and state Extension Services, Montana State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation County Committees and local farm organizations.

C. Special arrangements for Recruitment are made in cooperation with other Government Agencies in other states.

Orders for sugar beet workers were placed in clearance with the state of Texas. In accordance with an agreement of several years, the Colorado Agency recruited workers in Texas for sugar companies in Montana. Several crews were obtained from Arizona.

A special program for youths was continued over the previous year in sugar beet activity. Crews were smaller and more streamlined. Average earnings were greater this year. The program was successful with some problems developing. The program is active in agricultural reporting areas 9-27-02 and 9-27-03.

Indians from nearby reservations were recruited for the potato harvests. Indian recruitment for the sweet corn was eliminated by use of mechanical corn pickers. Youths were recruited extensively for hay and grain harvests.

Another up and comping agricultural activity in Sanders County is tree farming. The primary jobs in this activity are planting, cultivating, pruning and cutting. Most of the trees will be marketed as Christmas trees. Pictured above/below is a mechanical planter that places seedlings at proper spacing and

HE BILLINGS GAZETTE

Billings, Montana, Thursday Evening, June 9, 1966

Single Copy 10c Home Delive Price Is Lc

st Year—No. 38

1,200 Beet Workers Busy in Fields

More than 1,200 intrastate workers, mostly from Texas are now on the job thinning sugar beets in the Billings-Hardin area.

Clarence Nybo, Montana State Employment Service manager, reports about 500 of these are in the Hardin area while the remainder are in this area.

Nybo says there is a shortage of nearly 300 workers although more are due in from out of state over the weekend.

Thinning of beets in the Billings-Hardin area is about three weeks late in some cases due to unseasonal weather conditions, Nybo reports.

He says a small demand for youth has been noted over the past few days and if weather is favorable and the in-migration of adult workers is slow, more jobs in the sugar beet fields are expected to open up for youth.

At present, 50 youth are registered at the Youth Opportunity Center, indicating a desire for this type of work.

However, the Billings office manager says there are no plans to utilize large groups of youth in any particular areas.

He said it has been found that small groups of about five youth working under supervision of the individual grower has been most successful.

Numbers of youth to be used in the area will depend on the availability of adult workers.

Nybo says farmers in the Hardin area are being served by a mobile farm placement unit which is coordinated daily with the Billings office to assist in recruiting workers.

According to Nybo a significant break-through in meeting the need for qualified farm labor is being made by the Stillwater Grain Growers Association.

"An agreement between the Employment Service and the association, which was settled last spring, has contributed immeasurably to the supply of better qualified farm workers for its members," Nybo says.

This agreement consists mainly of offering standard working conditions and wages to individual farm workers.

A 10 hour day is considered standard and workers can work for $1.50 per hour and provide their own board and room or $10 per day or $250 a month plus room and board.

Records are being maintained by the Employment Service. The association will be asked to contribute its comments on the program so a plan for the farm labor program for next year can be developed.

Nybo says if this program works out farmers in this area can become more competitive with the non-agricultural sector in obtaining services of qualified workers.

LIBRARY

Looking Over New Wheat Variety

Looking over some of John Wiegand's new Fortuna wheat are (l. to r.) Linda, William, and John Wiegand; Tony Sundsted, county agent; and William Wiegand, Jr.. Wiegand farms west of Shelby and is one of several farmers in the county growing the new Fortuna Wheat variety

Custom Cutters and Farm Laborers Available

Plenty of custom cutters and a sufficient amount of farm laborers are available for harvest, Howard Porter, manager of the Montana State Employment Service, announced this week.

Porter noted that rain during the weekend curtailed harvest activities, but that cutting should be in full swing again this week, weather permitting.

Employment in Shelby is fairly stoble, Porter said, because of current construction projects. He noted two new homes are being constructed, a showroom for Hatch Motor Company, Harvey's Thriftway,, and the Farmers Union Supply Center (where construction will begin soon).

Cut Bank Local Office Area

S. eep Shearing

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Major changes in the agricultural economy which had an impact on employment were, first of all an exceptional cold spring which resulted in late replanting in most areas. All areas received sufficient moisture in June and late summer was hot and dry thus aiding grain and hay harvests. Turnover in the small youth beet program was normal, weedacides were a great help. Crop planting was near record again except for winter wheat. Adverse weather hampered harvests very little this year. Frost arrived in good time for potato and beet harvests but not extensive enough to cause damage. Stock was returned to winter ranges under normal conditions. Yields on hay and grain were good except the south west area. Hay and grain were damaged by drought there. The general harvest of all crops was good. Tonnage was up on sugar beets. Labor was more than adequate for the beet harvest with a good influx of Texas Mexicans. A supply of Indians was not needed due to other programs except for irrigation crews in Idaho.

Due to a normal harvest season, hired workers were sufficient for the work force. The largest demands were in wheat, other small grains and hay harvests. Beet thinning and pulling of weeds was normal except in western areas where weed growth was heavier. Harvests were earlier than the previous year due to dry weather. Beet and potato harvests had no delays. No potatoes were damaged by frost and some areas noted an increase in farm employment and wages and mechanical improvements. Adverse weather caused very little schedule changes on labor which resulted in shortages. Community programs were not needed to help the harvest.

Hay and harvest hands were in demand but also were amply taken care of by recruitment. It was a good year in farm employment much as it was the previous year. However, a small decline of demands was noted throughout the state similar to the national decline.

There was no major changes in land utilization in 1966 brought about by participation in production and acreage control programs of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, nor has expansion of urban development into rural areas caused large significant changes.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

A. Seasonal Hired Farm Workers

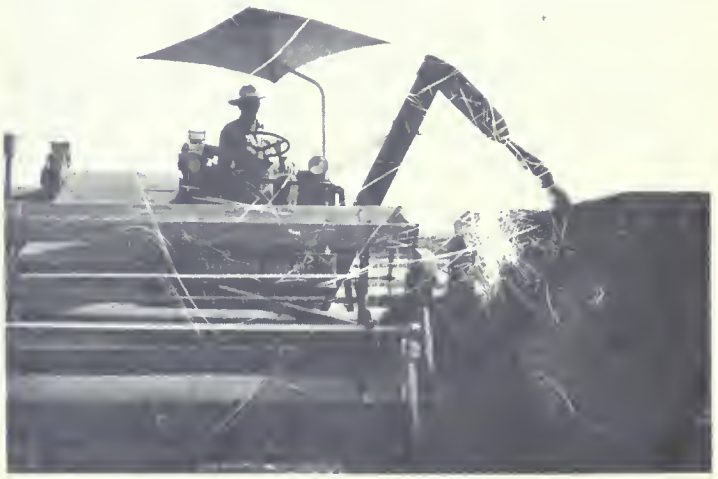
Local labor is generally male and operates machinery such as tractors, hay balers, trucks and small grain combines. They also perform non-agricultural work, as heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, and construction labor.

Female work as ranch couples or single as ranch cook. Non-agricultural employment is generally as cook in a cafe or domestic work. In western Montana, housewives work in the small fruit and berry harvests.

Some High School youths of both sexes are recruited to hoe and thin sugar beets. Approximately 7,500 interstate male workers are employed in agricultural activities of small grains, haying, and livestock activities. They are single or unattached. These workers are mostly from California, Idaho, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, and Colorado. They also perform non-agricultural work as truck drivers and construction laborers.

Billings Local Office Area

Diversified Farming



Montana State Employment Service

DIVISION OF
UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION
COMMISSION

AFFILIATED WITH
UNITED STATES
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

624 North 24th Street
Billings, Montana

February 28, 1966

To: Jess C. Fletcher, Director
Montana State Employment Service

Subject: Agricultural Employment

Following discussions held with representatives of the Stillwater Grain Growers Association starting last November, followed by my speaking at their annual meeting in January, I met with thirty (30) members of the Association including all their officers, at Broadview, Montana, on February 23, 1966.

At this meeting the growers did agree to a standardized wage agreement which provides for a basic 10-hour work day and salary schedules as indicated on the attached Recruitment Agreement. This Association is placing their orders for farm workers through the Employment Service and they plan to hold similar meetings to secure better qualified farm labor for specific crop activities during the forthcoming crop season. At this time I also discussed our MDTA farm training program and met with Mr. Max Conover, President of the Montana Grain Growers Association, whom you will recall contacted our Chairman relative to farm labor problems last December. Mr. Conover indicated he is very pleased with the program that is shaping up between the Employment Service and the Stillwater Grain Growers Association and if it is successful, would like to see it extended to other county associations in the state.

We are attaching a news article entitled "Farm Group Okays Wage Standards", which appeared in the Billings Gazette following our session. The newspaper made one error as the hourly wage plus board and room should be $1.00. Incidentally, five job openings were obtained from growers at the meeting and referrals are now underway.

Clarence H. Nybo

CLARENCE H. NYBO, Manager
Billings Local Office

Bozeman Local Office Area

Three Forks Feed Lot, which holds from 5,000 cattle in the summer to a capacity of 8,000 to 10,000 cattle in mid-winter. Included are pictures of the mixing bins used to store and mix feed for this operation. The overall operation employs 10 persons on a year-round basis.

Pictured also are piece workers, assemblying chicken-laying pens for the Cherry Lane Egg Farm, located in Three Forks and the unit that houses the 27,000 laying hens. An additional unit to hold 27,000 laying hens is now in the process of being erected. This operation employs 6 persons on a year-round basis.

The Fertilizer Plant at Three Forks, which utilizes manure from both the Feed Lot and Egg Farm, is pictured in operation. This operation requires only 2 employees.

Approximately 3,500 interstate workers are employed in the hoeing and thinning of sugar beets. These workers are primarily family groups, and both sexes 14 years and older work. Their main occupation is that of a vegetable farm laborer. The majority of these workers are from Texas and are of Mexican descent.

The most significant shortages of seasonal farm workers were for the spring seeding, late hay harvest and seeding. Foreign workers were used to supplement domestic workers. Domestic workers who were available for this activity were from the State of Texas and Ariznoa.

There were no significant surplus of seasonal farm workers. The influx was down; some shortages existed at times especially during the fall harvest and spring soil preparation.

B. Regular Hired Farm Workers

The livestock and dry land small grain activities are the major crops that employ regular hired farm workers. The general trend of employment for 1966 was equal to previous years. Generally, agreeable weather resulted in good agricultural activities, but there were some setbacks in a few areas due to dry conditions.

Mechanization is having its inroads and does decrease needs in some activities, such as mechanized feed lots hay and potato harvest, etc. However, better farming methods and scientific know-how is producing more from acreages.

Dry land and small grain farms continue to increase in size with the result that more farm machinery is being used. This is true especially in the eastern part of the state. Small acreages persist in western Montana. Many of the larger farms are maintaining large equipment and repair sheds, thus creating demands for skilled mechanical help and heavy machinery operators.

IMPACT OF MECHANIZATION AND OTHER CHANGES IN PRODUCTION METHODS

A..The growing, care, and processing of sugar beets has been considered the main crop mechanized to the most significant degree in recent years. The harvest as heretofore mentioned in the previous report is about 100 per cent mechanized, and thinning around 55 percent. Considerable care in the planting of the seeds is important for the subsequent use of mechanical thinners. Seeds of the monogerm type must be placed in the ground at a pre-determined depth and interval of space. The size of the beet seed and cells of the plate in the planter must match. The equipment is simple in construction and does not require specialized knowledge to repair.

Sidney Local Office Area

Hay Harvest

The Missoula Sentinel

Monday Evening, May 9, 1966

LLOYD G. SCHERMER, Publisher — EDWARD A. COYLE, Editor

DEANE JONES, Managing Editor · E. J. ERLANDSON, News Editor · SAM REYNOLDS, Editorial Page Editor · JAMES E. BURGESS, Production Manager

E. A. HOLMES, Advertising Manager · J. R. RAMBO, JR., Circulation Manager · JAMES W. COOK, Office Manager · E. C. STENSON, Classified Adv. Mgr.

Missoula Sugar Factory Closes Down

The announcement last week that the Missoula sugar factory is closing, almost surely forever, was hard but not surprising news for Missoula.

There are many reasons for the closing, but the main one was that, after very bad years in 1964 and 1965, an even worse year was in store for 1966.

Last year saw the processing of one of the smallest sugar beet crops in history. The crop this year looks as if it will be less than half of last year's size, and the American Crystal Sugar Co. felt it could not keep the factory going on that meager basis.

Many things contributed to the demise. The farmer sells sugar beets for the same price he got in 1940, but all his costs are up. Disease has hurt the crop. The weather for the last two seasons was bad, and this year started off poorly for the crop too. The net profits for the local growers were hurt when the factory processed beets grown in Washington, which cost more because they had to travel far.

Local growers are not satisfied that the company did as well as it should in managing the business here. While the company might have done more to help the local situation, the underlying causes of the closing indicate the company would have had trouble making ends meet whatever it did.

Missoula will be hurt by the closing. The company cut its permanent work force from over 50 to 23 last year as an economy move. Now all those pay checks will be lost to Missoula, plus those received by about 320 seasonal employes. When the money paid by farmers for their labor is added in, the factory generated well over $3 million a year for the area's economy.

The Missoula area's economy, however, is strong and is growing, generally, faster than any other in the state. It can absorb this loss, though it means personal hardship for many people.

It is sad to note the passing of this once-prosperous business, which benefited the area greatly for 38 years.

Mobile Employment Unit 'Hopping Helping Hand'

One of the busiest offices of the Montana State Employment Service is the mobile placement unit which is kept hopping about the state.

Clarence H. Nybo, Billings office manager, reports the unit was so busy handling the grain harvest in the Fort Benton area that a special unit had to be set up at the Midland Empire State Fair last week.

He says a local mobile home dealer donated a trailer for the office's use and the fair board furnished the space.

"Response by employers and applicants alike to this trailer went far beyond our expectations," Nybo explains.

There were 521 people placed in jobs in connection with the fair and another 62 who applied for jobs not related to the fair.

Majority of the fair placements were in service categories for employment in booths and rides operated by concessionnaires.

In addition, the trailer provided information to 35 young people regarding enrollment in the Job Corps.

A number of agricultural employers placed orders for farm workers. The latter were relayed by telephone to the office on North 24th Street where the jobs were filled.

Nybo says the regular mobile farm placement unit is designed primarily to function as a farm labor information center and farm placement office during peak agricultural activities.

It was also stationed for two weeks at Gardiner to direct workers to jobs in Yellowstone National Park.

This unit was stationed in Hardin most of May, June and July.

It assisted in routing incoming and outgoing sugar beet crews.

The unit provided harvest information for out of state custom combine units during July.

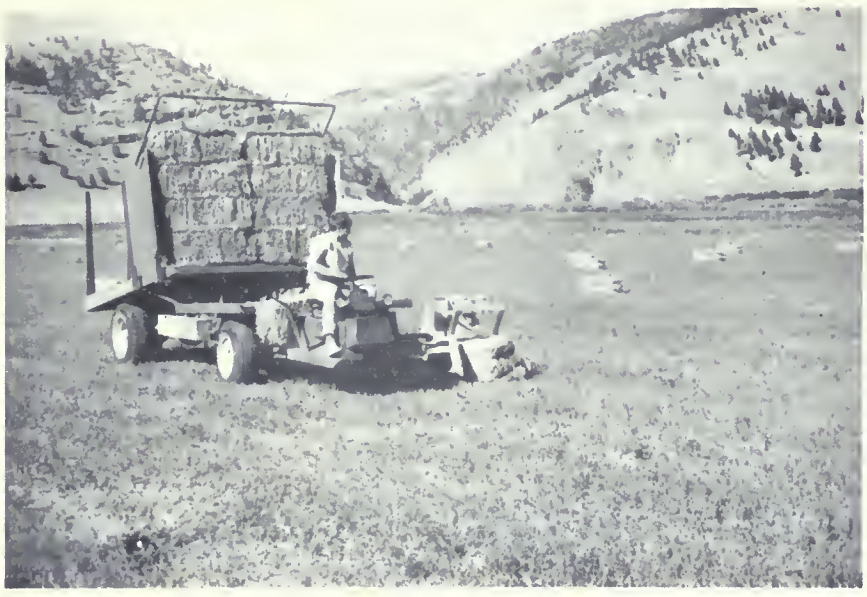
It was then moved to Great Falls and Fort Benton for the grain harvest.

From this area it will be sent into Western Montana to function as a farm labor center during the fruit and berry harvest.

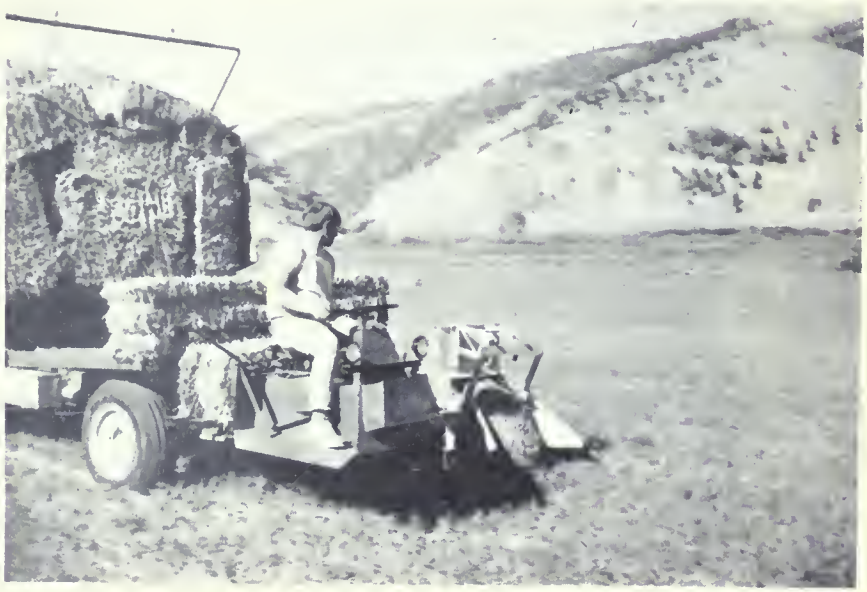
"We must depend on out-of-state migratory labor during peak agricultural activities with our major crops," Nybo says.

"A migratory worker, by making use of our offices and mobile units, has found he can greatly reduce time between jobs and add to his annual earnings."

Helena Local Office Area



Mechanized Haying Sequence



In recent years wheat farms have been reduced in number but have doubled in size. This has resulted in the use of larger mechanical equipment for soil preparation, seeding, and summer fallowing, and consequently caused a reduction in the man-hours of work for these activities. The hay pick-up baler and loader has become widely used in most areas of Montana.

Since crops in general were near as productive in 1966 as in 1965, there were about the same labor requirements as the preceding year. A part of this, however, was due to mechanization. It appears mechanization will be eliminating many hundreds in the next two or three years should the present advancement in machinery accelerate as it has been. It is anticipated that the thinning of sugar beets by hand will be eliminated in the above-mentioned period. In fact, much thinning has been eliminated so far. Through the use of the monogerm seed, space planting has become a reality, and further developments in the use of herbicides for positive weed control would eliminate any need for hand labor. The workers affected would be the domestic migrant composed of family groups of all ages and sexes. There is no longer a need for foreign workers. Local youth, too would be affected. Weedcides continue to reduce labor needs.

Regular Hired Farm Workers

It is becoming increasingly necessary that regular farm workers acquire skills in the operation and repair of farm equipment which requires advanced knowledge of operation and repair. Employers expect them to be skilled in operating and repairing the larger tractors and other machinery used in seeding, cultivating, spraying, and harvesting. While most regular workers have these skills, it does require that the new entrant into this work possess higher mechanical skills.

RECRUITMENT OF FARM WORKERS

Radio, television, newspaper publicity, letters, and posters were utilized by the local offices to obtain the maximum supply of local seasonal farm workers. Excellent results were obtained.

Three local offices conducted school registrations to recruit youth for work in sugar beets and fruit. During 1967 this technique and program will be used in two beet area offices; but plans are being formulated to streamline the program and eliminate, as far as possible, the problems which to some extent hampered the 1966 program.

Volunteer Farm Placements Representatives were used in most local office areas. Where possible, VFPR's made placement from local sources, or transmitted unfilled orders to local offices for action. Farmers and ranchers were advised of their local VFPR through local newspapers, radio, posters, and by direct promotional mail from the local offices While all VFPR's were not 100 per cent effective, it is planned to continue this activity in 1967.

As heretofore, the local labor supply was not sufficient to meet the demand for regular hired farm workers. Inter-office clearance was used for some occupations.

Montana Participated in the Annual Worker Plan

As an order-holding state, Montana received 434 scheduled crews and family heads involving 3223 workers. On the basis of actual contacts with the crews and examination of the ES-369's, the services rendered are reflected in Table 4 of this report.

710,000 Pounds Of Cherries Shipped in '66

The noise of the once bustling cherry packing plant has now been replaced with the clacking of adding machines and the mutters of puzzled bookkeepers since the plant finished shipping last Saturday.

Although all final results haven't been completely tabulated, a total of 710,000 pounds of cherries were handled by the plant, Neil Devlin, manager said.

This total represents the first successful crop in two years, and compares favorably with the harvest of two years ago, he said. A total of 25 railroad cars loaded with approximately 14 tons or 28,000 pounds of fruit was shipped this season.

The plant, working with two crews of about 60 people each until Wednesday night of last week, suffered only one minor breakdown in the new $36,000 equipment installed this year. "In view of this success," Devlin said, "some additional changes will be made to in-

(Continued on Page 6)

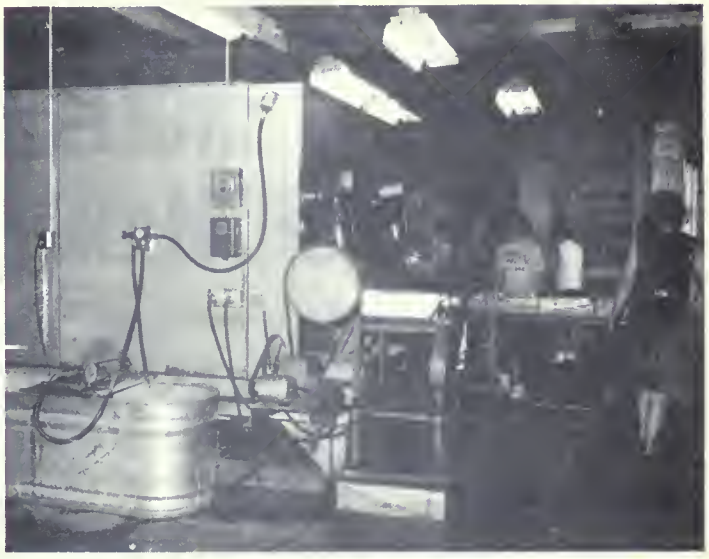
710,000

(Continued from page 1)

clude the overall plant operation."

Devlin wishes to thank all employees and key personel that worked in the plant this year for "the fine effort put forth."

Others making the successful year that is was were the Olsen Building and Moving Co., Western Bee Supplies Ind., Mahugh Impliment and the State Employment Service



Cut Bank Pioneer Press

Cut Bank—Oil Capital of Montana

Volume 57 | Cut Bank, Glacier County, Montana, March 24, 1966 | No. 37

ATTENTION: FARMERS & RANCHERS

The MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE urges you to place your order for spring help now and assure yourself of good workers. There will be a very large demand for agricultural workers this spring and a shortage is expected. Remember, the MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE is here to serve you. Call 938-2191 or stop at 116 East Main today.

The Montana State Employment Service has listings now of shearing crews available. A crew of 16 shearers will be available June 1 and a crew of 6 is available now. If you are in need of shearers or know a neighbor who is, call 938-2191 today or stop at 116 East Main.

Farm Help Shortage

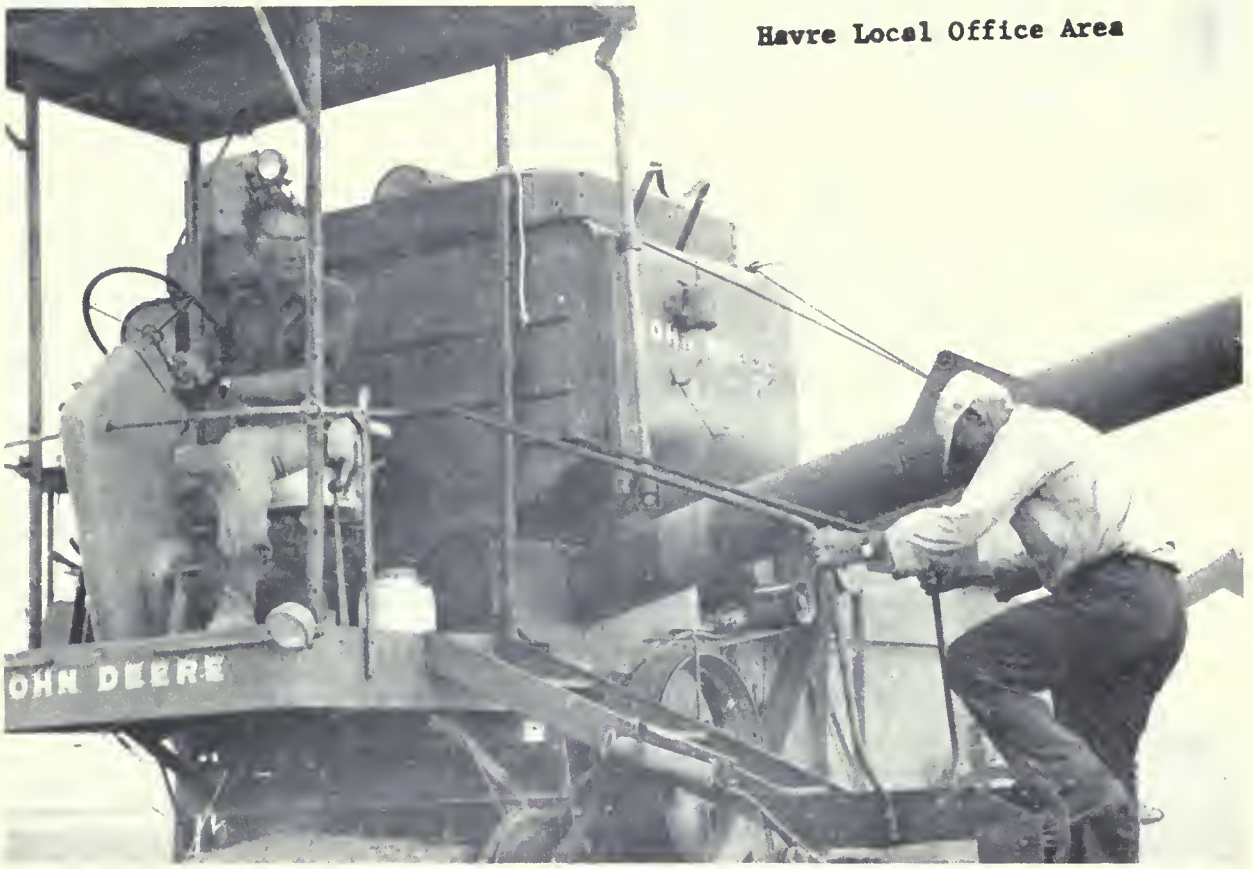
Don Crail, manager of the Montana State Employment Office in Cut Bank, announced today that there is a labor shortage of qualified farm help in all farm areas of Montana. Cut Bank is short 15 to 20 at this time. Orders for farm help have been sent to all 22 offices in Montana through Employment Service clearance system and this could bring some qualified help to the area. Crail says that everything is being done to help eliminate the shortage problem and that farmers and ranchers who anticipate a need for help in the near future should continue to contact the Employment Office and place their orders.

If you are interested in spring farm work or know of anyone who can take a few weeks of farm work during this spring seeding season, contact the State Employment Office now at 116 East Main or call 938-2191.

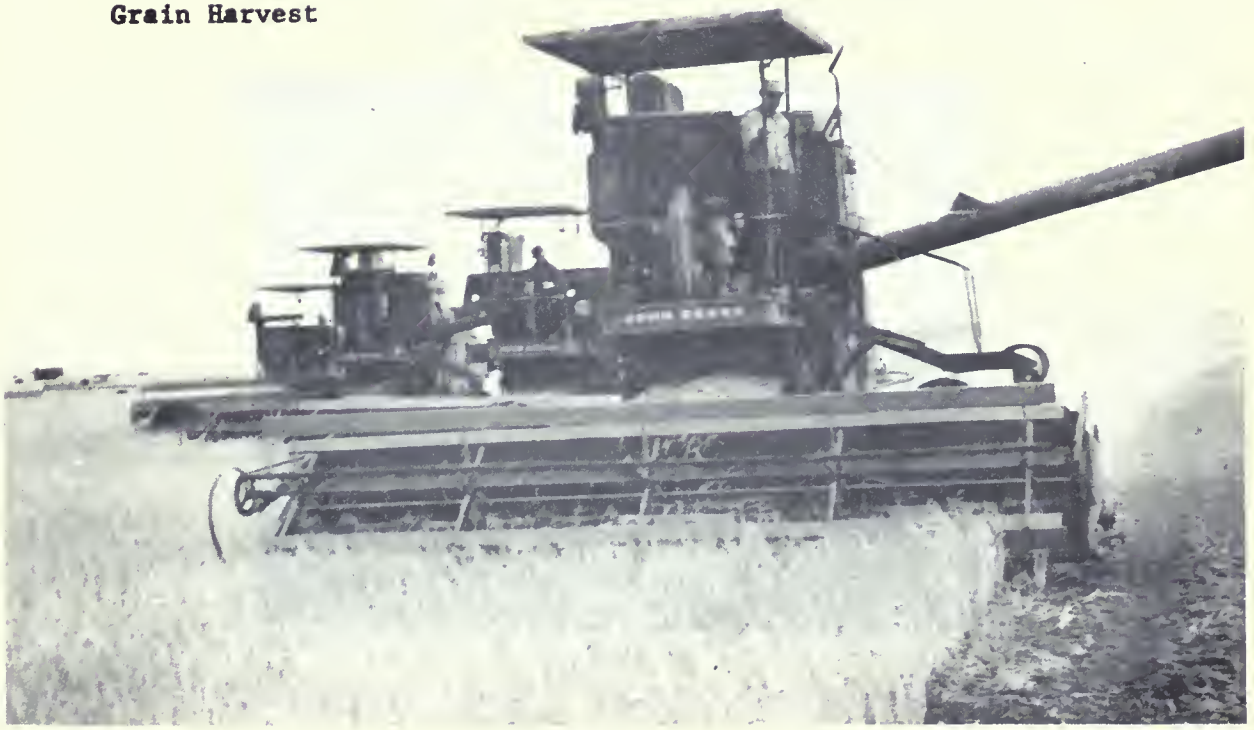
ATTENTION: FARMERS, RANCHERS

The MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE urges you to place your order for spring help now and assure yourself of good workers. There will be a very large demand for agricultural workers this spring and a shortage is expected. Remember, the MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE is here to serve you. Call 938-2191 or stop at 116 East Main today.

Havre Local Office Area



Grain Harvest



BILLINGS GAZETTE

(AP) Billings, Montana, Friday Evening, February 18, 1966 (UPI)—Unifax Single Copy 10c Home Delivery Price Is Lower

Farm Labor Shortage Topic at Broadview

Shortage of farm labor, prospects and possible solutions will be discussed Wednesday at a meeting sponsored by Stillwater County Grain Growers Association in cooperation with Montana State Employment Service.

Meeting will be at 8 p.m. in the Broadview School Multipurpose Room with Clarence Nybo of MSES as speaker.

A pilot farm employer training program under the Government Manpower Training Development Act, from which Nybo has requested funds, will be among main topics under discussion.

Others include:

—Setting up a "boarding house" with modern conveniences and a day room in Broadview;

—Possibility of a standard $1 wage plus or dollars per day and a standard working day;

—A long range training program for farm help;

—And possibility of a public relations program to imporve the image of the farmer as employer.

C. Montana recruited no Puerto Ricans; however, a small crew of Puerto Ricans are hired in the Dillon area each year through private sources.

D. Housing

One hundred seventy five housing inspections were made. These cannot,however, be directly related to interstate recruitment. This is due to the fact that when inspections are made prior to occupancy, and until domestic recruitment is completed, it is not possible to determine whether housing will be occupied by domestic families or groups of single workers. All housing is basically family type, on farm, necessitating a dual determination of suitability.

All agency inspections are made as a part of the regular program of field visiting. About 1,350 housing units are occupied at some time during the eight-week period that migratory labor is employed in large numbers.

State housing regulations are under the administration of the State Board of Health, Division of Enviromental Sanitation. That agency limits participation in inspection, but the Department is ready to investigate complaints and does test water sources.

No difficulties have been encountered in arranging co-operation. There has not been any instance when, after attempts to secure improvement or unsatisfactory housing by other means, the State Board of Health has not taken appropriate action.

E. Wages

Periodic wage field surveys were made, along with regular employer contacts. Domestic migrant workers are recruited for spring beet work. Minimum wage rates per acre are fixed by public hearing. Since there is no comparable activity before or during the period of recruitment, field surveys were made during the working period.

The wage rate per acre system of remuneration causes wage survey difficulties above those found in most piece rate surveys. Field surveys were supplemented by examination of payroll records of growers and local office orders.

F. Foreign Workers

Domestic workers only were hired in the sugar beet pre-harvest activities. Most of the Mexican domestics were used between May 15 and July 15. The peak employment was on June 25th.

There were no organizations, administrative or procedural changes, or special programs developed with respect to the use of domestics. No problems were encountered.

In the pre-season process of surveying the expected supply and demand for seasonal farm labor, each local office considers trends in production, employment, the labor market, mechanization, and other factors expected to influence the requirements and supply of labor. Local office records, such as agricultural orders, ES-223 In-Season Farm Labor Reports, and other records are utilized. Contacts are made with grower associations, processors, county agents, and other government agencies interested in agriculture.

HARVEST SPEEDED.....As darkness fell last weekend, bringing rain clouds with it, four combines of Charles Horinek of Hingham, race to gather the harvest as rain threatened. Horinek, who is typical of Hi-Line grain farmers, reported harvest about one-half finished. Wheat averaged 30-40 bushels an acre, barley averaged 40-60 bushels an acre along the Hi-Line. (Staff Photo by Thole)

Grain Harvest

Hello Friends,

Do you have your hired help problems solved for this year? If not please attend a meeting on Farm Labor Problems, February 23, 1966 at 8 o'clock P.M. in the Broadview School Multi-purpose room (room 116) at Broadview, Montana.

This meeting is being sponsored by the Stillwater County Grain Growers Association in cooperation with the Montana State Employment Service.

The following items will be discussed:

1. A pilot farm employer training program under the Government Manpower Training Development Act. Federal funds have been requested by Mr. Nybo, of the Employment Service.

2. Setting up of a "Boarding House" with modern conviences and a day room. Mrs Fae Grussing will give her views on this and discuss the possibilities of its success in Broadview.

3. The possibility of a standard wage of $1.00 plus or dollars per day and standard working day.

4. The recruitment of special groups for such jobs as pulling rye, stacking bales, etc.

5. A long range training program for farm help.

6. The possibility of a public relations program to improve the image of the farmer as an employer.

7. Any problem or suggestions you might have.

We would like to point out unskilled labor is receiving $3.19 per hour for ditch digging in Billings. Major companies have a major recruiting program in effect and a starting wage of $3.75 per hour. The draft is taking men, and skilled labor is in demand and definitely short.

Based on the above you can see that unless something constructive toward the solution of the farm labor problem is accomplished quickly, by summertime the situation will be a very major problem for many of us.

Your cooperation in attending this meeting and bringing along constructive suggestions and ideas, plus an approximate estimate of the amount of hired help you need, and when, for the following year will be greatly appreciated.

Bill Manner
Stillwater County
Grain Growers

P.S. The guest speaker is Clarence Nybo, of the Montana Employment Service.

Lewistown Local Office Area

Grain Harvest

RECRUITMENT AGREEMENT

Stillwater Graingrowers Association - Montana State Employment Service

The following working conditions and wage scales were agreed upon at a meeting between the manager of the Billings office of the Montana State Employment Service and the membership of the Stillwater County Graingrowers Association at Broadview, Montana on February 23, 1966, in an effort to secure better quality farm workers for the ensuing agricultural season:

1. The standard work day will be considered to be 10 hours.
2. Wages.
   Tractor Operators (single) - $250.00 per month board and room
   10.00 per day board and room
   1.50 per hour furnish own board and room
   1.00 per hour board and room

Facilities for single farm workers will be available at the Broadview Boarding House where room and board can be obtained at $4 per day, workers to furnish own transportation to and from job site within a general radius of 10 miles from Broadview. Hourly wage to start when worker reports to place of employment.

Married couples - wage scale for married couples will run generally $250 to $350 per month including housing and other fringe benefits. Wages for couples will be negotiated at point of hiring to include specified extras.

Billings Local Office Area

Periodic wage surveys were made. The surveys were made in the field while the work was being performed. Wages rates paid were included in the survey data. Local offices posted "Notices of Prevailing Wage Rates" in Post Offices and other public places in the area of jurisdiction where workers were employed. The wage survey findings equaled or exceeded the U.S.D.A. rate of fair and reasonable wages.

Park, Granite and Meagher counties are areas of low farm income. All seven Indian Reservations in the state are also included. The Montana State Employment Service assisted with community and reservation committees in developing an Overall Economic Development Plan. The plan was approved during 1962. The Montana Agency participated in special surveys of underemployment and unemployed in rural areas, as well as provided routine employment data to be used in economic plans for rural development. A training program for farm hands was completed on the Crow Indian Reservation. A training program for farm hands was completed in Billings.

There were no problems related to housing, transportation, wages, health and medical facilities, or food which have interfered with recruitment and placement of local or migratory workers.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

State and local office personnel participated in farm organization meetings, Chamber of Commerce, civic groups, and public schools to strengthen public understanding of the Agency's Farm Placement Program. Generally, the method is round table or informal discussion from the floor.

Newspaper, radio and television is used to disseminate farm labor market information. All local offices regularly prepare news releases designed for listener and reader appeal. Thousands of farm and harvest bulletins are mailed each year.

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Placement totals decreased slightly under preceding year. Moisture, growing and harvesting conditions varied, especially in the South-Western part of the State where yield records were affected. This decrease was due to a drought in the Dillon area. The cherry crop was excellent in Polson and Kalispell. Activities, especially in livestock, grain farming and haying were average from the previous year. A dry season had it's effect in earlier harvest. The "Youth in Sugar Beet Program" was minimized due to a good supply of domestic workers from Texas. Domestic workers were plentiful and considered very good help especially in the Hardin area.

Every effort will be made to fully utilize local sources of labor, particularly in counties designated for rural development under the Area Redevelopment Act.

Anaconda Local Office Area

Bob Neil is shown operating a baler on his ranch on the lower Rock Creek south of Philipsburg. Note the sled attached to the baler and the man stacking the bales on it. When the sled is full, the bales are shoved to the ground, where they are picked up with the farmhand and taken to the stack.

Bob has two daughters that work in the haying. The younger girl is shown operating the scatter rake which Bob has remodeled so that it trips and then doesn't go back down until it is tripped again. He does this so that scattered hay can be carried into another windrow and dumped, then the operator can turn and cross the windrow again.

Youth Employment Problem Said Major This Summer

KALISPELL — Summer jobs for youth is a major problem throughout the nation again this year, according to Norman Beyer, manager of the office of Montana State Employment Service office here.

"Statistics compiled by the task force on summer domestic programs headed by vice president Hubert Humphrey indicate that 1.8 million youngsters seeking work this summer will not be able to find it unless every one of us participates in a plan to help them," Beyer said.

"Boiled down in simple terms, this means that one out of six youths between 16 and 21 will not be able to find any kind of job, and for many i will be the end of education be cause they'll need the mone to get back to school," he said

Last April President Lyndor Johnson instigated a youth op portunity program in which h called upon private industry and state and federal agencies which would like youth as beginning workers within their organizations.

"But in order to make this program work, we must all become involved," Beyer said.

"Over 700 Flathead Valley young people stand to benefit directly if we will work together to make this 1966 opportunity campaign a success this summer," Beyer said. "But the most significant gain will belong to the nation because we will have developed our greatest natural resource, our youth," he said.

Kalispell Local Office Area

Cherry Growing Reported Good

BIGFORK — All reports from East Lake Shore cherry orchards indicate that the 1966 cherry crop should be the best one in five years. Growers have checked trees carefully against the sub-zero cold periods of January and February and they have not found any signs of damage.

This was reported by Cecil Miller, secretary of the Flathead Lake Cherry Growers Assocation and manger of the Kalispell packing shed. The last full crop that the orchardists got was in 1962. The crop was frozen out in 1963, rained out in the flood year of 1964, and frozen out again in 1965.

Miller and Nat Boyd, sales manager for the Association, anticipate that the cherry growers could easily have a million pound crop this year.

The Flathead Lake sweet cherries are the last ones to come on the market, and they always command a premium price.

Women's Club Federation Meet, Apr. 17

BY MRS. HARRY HETLAND

Plans are being made for the mid-year meeting of the Flathead Federation of Women's Clubs to hear reports choose committees and plan the annual meeting to be held in September.

This will be held April 17 at two o'clock at the community room of tthe First National Bank.

Letters are being sent to clubs to send their president and secretary, if possible. If not send two delegates. Any club interested in progress in the Flathead whether it be industry, education or recreation is cordially invited to attend.

The executive board will serve coffee and cookies at the conclusion of the meeting, according to Mrs. August Giermann president of the Federation.

MONTANA SWEET CHERRY HARVEST

With continued favorable growing conditions, the Flathead sweet cherry crop should be very good this year. Contrary to earlier reports the frost damage was only light and served as a means of thinning a very heavy crop.

Picking should commence on July 15th or right after depending on growing and ripening conditions. Some pollingers may be ready about July 10th.

The cherry growers association has not set a price for picking but it is expected to be from 4¢ to 5¢ per pound.

The Montana State Employment Service will open a temporary office at Yellow Bay Clubhouse on the East Shore of Flathead Lake on or about July 12th.

In addition, workers can contact the Montana State Employment Service offices at 427 First Avenue East, Kalispell, telephone 756-5071, or Salish Hotel Building, Polson, telephone 883-2589

Glendive Local Office Area

Beet Harvest

Helena Local Office Area

Diversified Farming

PART II
OUTLOOK FOR COMING YEAR

STATE FORECAST

The outlook on agricultural employment for Montana in 1967 is that employment is expected to be slightly under 1966, pending better weather conditions. However, since 1966 was an unusually dry year, it could be that with more mechanization employment will decline perhaps to the extent of several hundred workers. Should moisture be sufficient, employment should not change to a great extent. With usual winter conditions, the later part of the year some pickup should occur in feeding operations.

AREA FORECAST

AREA 9-28-01
Western Fruit & Sugar Beets

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-01, Western Fruit and Sugar Beets (Flathead Lake, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater, and Meagher Counties).

The farm labor outlook for the coming year should be better than for 1966 provided weather conditions are favorable. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities. Sugar beet acreage will be decreased and possibly eliminated due to the closing of the American Crystal Sugar Co. A normal cherry crop is expected with hopes of no frost damage destruction as was experienced in previous years. The 1966 crop was very good.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Soil preparation and seeding	April - May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May - August
Haying	June - September
Irrigating	May - August
Small fruit harvest	July - August
Small grain harvest	August
Potato harvest	September
Sugar beet harvest	September - October
Livestock seasonal activities	January - December

AREA 9-28.02
Southern Sugar Beets

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-02, Southern Sugar Beet (Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Yellowstone, Treasure, Carbon, and Big Horn Counties).

Again the weather will be the deciding factor. It is expected labor requirements will be higher then those of 1966. The supply and demand for labor in irrigated activities will be approximately the same as last year. Local and migratory labor is expected to meet demands in all activities including sugar beets. A portion of the demand will be met through youth groups in the thinning, hoeing, and weeding of sugar beets. Migrant domestic workers will be available for other states following the completion of thinning and hoeing of sugar beets in July. It is expected that sugar beet acreage will be increased in this area to compensate for the loss in Area 9-28-01.

Anaconda Local Office Area

Shown is James Gordon operating a Bale sweep on the Mitchell Munis Ranch east of Philipsburg. Jim was referred to the Munis Ranch in January of this year as a single ranch hand, but he had marriage plans and was married in April. The employer did not have suitable housing for a couple but didn't want to loose a good man which Jim had proven to be. Upon doing some repairs and remodeling of an older ranch house, he was able to keep Jim and his wife.

The Bale sweep shown will pick up twelve bales at a time and take them to the stack. The sweep is considered very practical in the area as it mounts on the farmhand hoist which eliminates having to remove the farmhand to free the tractor for other work, and only the sweep mount need be purchased, resulting in a greater saving than many of the other bale handling devices. Bales can be stacked much higher due to the high lift of the farmhand.

MONTANA
GRAIN
GROWERS
ASSOC.

Broadview, Montana
Feb 8, 1966

Mr Clarence Nybo
Montana unemployment Comp Comm
626 North 24th St
Billings, Montana

Dear Clarence

Sorry it has taken us so long to do anything about your fine offers of cooperation and suggestions. We have conducted a fairly good survey, and arrived at the following conclusions

1. We will be willing to pay at least $1.25 per hr.
2. Facilities with good living quarters and meals, plus a day room could be made available at Broadview, at reasonable cost
3. Probably 5 men could work year around out of Broadview, and for seasonal work many more particularly plowing, seeding, haying, and harvest
4. It might be possible to run a bus to Melstone Broadview.
5. Almost everyone deems good men available at a cost that will match their ability - In other words we are willing to pay a competitive wage for real good help.

Based on above we are planning on holding a Community meeting in Broadview as soon as possible and would very much appreciate having you come and express your viewpoints, opinions, and make suggestions and recommendations.

We would like to hold this meeting during the week of February 21-25th. If any of these days would

PRESIDENT: MAX CONOVER BROADVIEW, MONT.
VICE PRESIDENT: EARL WASSON WHITEWATER, MONT.
SECRETARY: WILLIAM HANSER BROADVIEW, MONT
TREASURER: GEORGE SKARDA DENTON, MONT.

MONTANA
GRAIN
GROWERS
ASSOC.

Let your schedule, please advise us and we will call the meeting at our convenience. We would like to hold it on the evening at about 7:30 PM.

Thanking you for your last cooperation and sincerely hoping we can work out a reasonable solution to this grain labor situation, I remain

Friendly Yours
Bill Hansen

PRESIDENT: MAX CONOVER BROADVIEW, MONT.
VICE PRESIDENT: EARL WASSON WHITEWATER, MONT.
SECRETARY: WILLIAM HANSER BROADVIEW, MONT.
TREASURER: GEORGE SKARDA DENTON, MONT.

Fleming Potato Celler

Polson Local Office Area

The activities and approximate time periods involved:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved:
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April - May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May 15 - July 31
Haying	June - August
Irrigation	June - September
Fallowing	May - August
Small grain harvest	July - August
Sweet corn harvest	August 15 - September 15
Field corn harvest	August
Sugar beet harvest	September - October
Livestock seasonal activities	January - December

AREA 9-28.03
Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-03, Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain (Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Rosebud, Custer, Fallon, Powder River, and Carter Counties).

Should moisture content repeat that of 1966, employment requirements should be the same except there will be some adjustment on sugar beet acreages in the youth program. In irrigated areas there is little anticipated change. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities including sugar beets. Demands could be less due to the success of weedacides.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April - May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May - July
Haying	June - August
Irrigation	June - September
Fallowing	May - August
Small grain harvest	July - August
Sugar Beet harvest	September - October
Livestock seasonal activities	January - December

AREA 9-28.04
Triangle and Highline Hardwheat

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28.04, Triangle and Highline Hard Wheat (Teton, Choteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Roosevelt, and Sheridan Counties.)

This is primarily a dryland wheat growing and livestock area. Should sufficient moisture be received in 1967, the labor requirements may repeat. However, a dry year could make a difference It is anticipated that local workers and voluntary in-migration of interstate workers will satisfy all demands for this area's activities

It appears that the sugar beet acreage and the demand for labor will be decreased for 1967.

Helena Local Office Area

Haying Operations

Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Statistical Reporting Service
and
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Released
October 25, 1966

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED - OCTOBER 1, 1966

MONTANA

MORE CATTLE ON FEED THAN LAST YEAR Montana cattle feeders were fattening 64,000 head of cattle and calves for the slaughter market on October 1, 1966. This was 6 percent more than the number on feed July 1, 1966 and compares with 48,000 head on October 1, 1965. This was the largest number on feed on October 1 in the 8 years of quarterly estimates.

PLACEMENTS AND MARKETINGS UP FROM LAST YEAR During the three-month period ended October 1, 1966 Montana feeders placed 45,000 head on feed, 18,000 more than in the comparable period last year. Marketings of fat cattle during the July-September quarter this year totaled 35,000 head, down sharply from the 50,000 head sold during the April-July period, but above the 30,000 head marketed during the July-September quarter last year. Cattle feeders expect to sell 30,000 head of fat cattle between October 1 and January 1. If these intentions are carried out the sales would compare with 29,000 head marketed during the corresponding period of 1965.

ABOVE AVERAGE SUGAR BEET CROP Montana's 1966 sugar beet production is estimated at 960,000 tons, on the basis of November 1 reports from growers. This is 28 percent more than last year and 2 percent above the 1960-64 average. Indicated yield at 16.0 tons per acre compares with last year's low yield of 12.4 tons and the average of 14.7 tons per acre.

POTATO PRODUCTION LARGER THAN LAST YEAR This year's potato crop is estimated at 1,428,000 cwt., 8 percent more than last year and 10 percent larger than average. The growing season extended into late September and was favorable for potatoes.

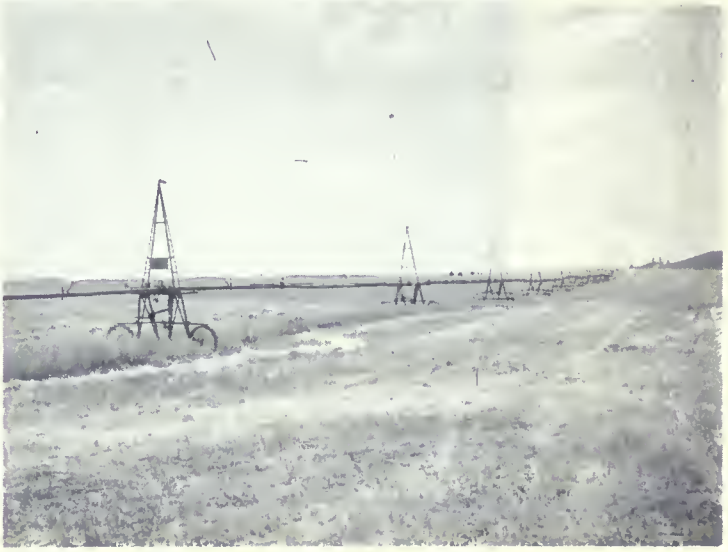
SMALLEST DRY BEAN CROP SINCE 1953 Dry bean production is expected to total 192,000 cwt. This is 8 percent less than last year and the smallest production since 1953.

ABOVE AVERAGE CORN CROP Production of corn for grain is indicated at 325,000 bushels. This compares with last year's crop of 120,000 bushels and the 5-year average of 231,000 bushels.

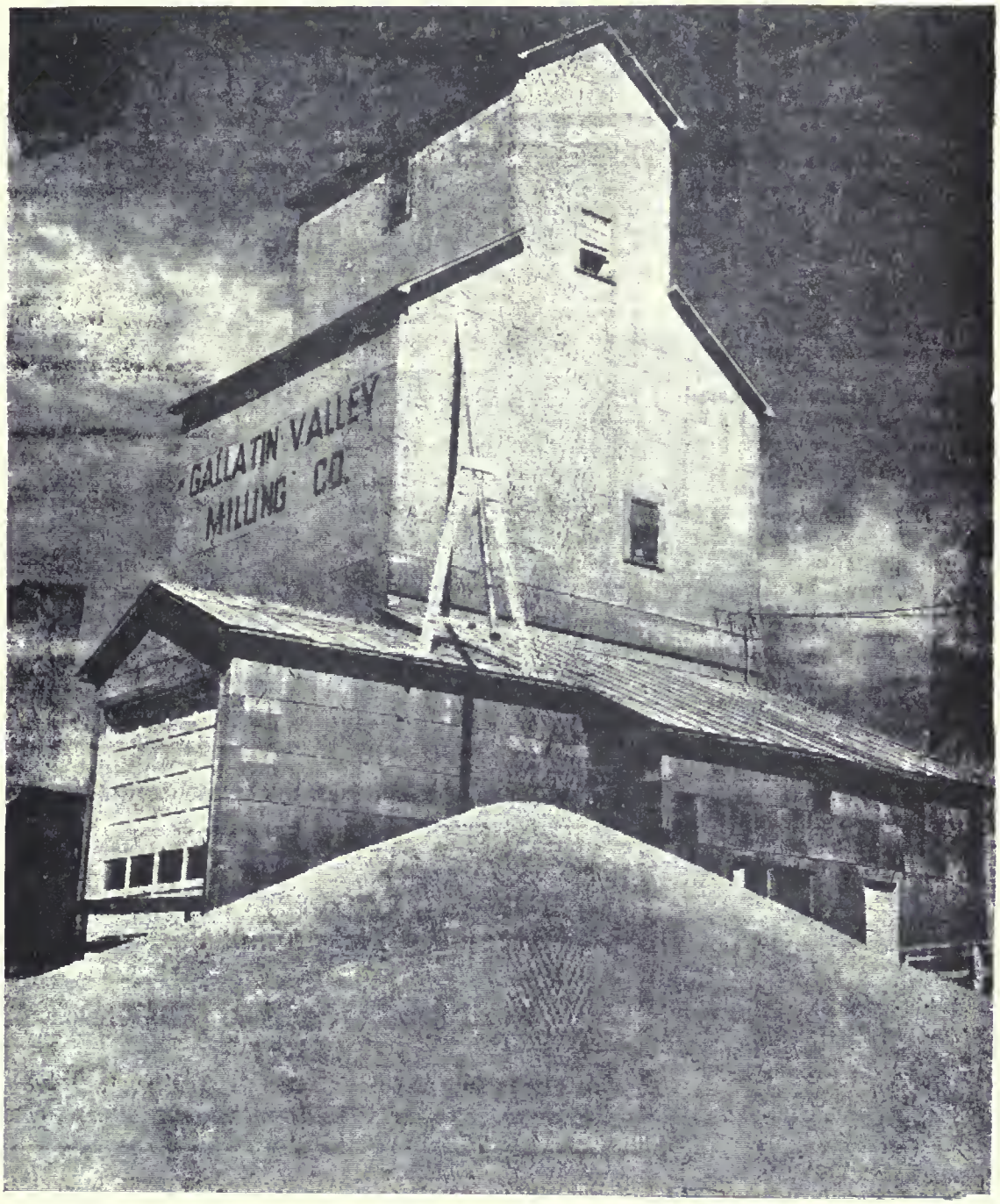
AVERAGE APPLE OUTPUT Montana's 1966 commercial apple crop is expected to total 30,000 bushels. This is 10,000 bushels more than last year but is the same as the 1960-64 average.

WHEAT PROSPECTS IMPROVE Based on September 1 indications production of all wheat is forecast at 93,804,000 bushels, 8 percent less than last year but 20 percent more than the 1960-64 average. The winter wheat crop is estimated at 60,392,000 bushels as compared with last year's record output of 67,541,000 bushels. Yields exceeded earlier expectations in the western half of the north central district and adjoining areas. Combining of winter wheat was completed in all major producing areas of the State by the end of August, and only the small late maturing portion remained unharvested. Durum wheat is forecast at 4,200,000 bushels, 32 percent more than last year and 2 percent more than average. Production of other spring wheat, at 29,212,000 bushels, is 8 percent below last year, and because of reduced acreage, is the smallest crop since 1961.

Sugar Beets



Mobile irrigation



Galata Elevator 'Plugged Up'

The Gallatin Valley Elevator at Galata was "plugged up" this week and wheat was stored on the ground. Toole County's bumper wheat and barley crop continued to come in from the fields this week. The crop is considered to be the best in many years in this area.

—Promoter photo

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April - May
Sugar beet thinning and hoeing	May - June
Haying	June - August
Irrigation	June - August
Small grain harvest	July - August
Fallowing	May - September
Sugar beet harvest	October
Livestock seasonal activities	January - December

Girls Work Good if Boys Can be Kept at a Distance

"I find that the girls do excellent work," said Dale Eschenbacher about the tennager crew of girls that are thinning beets on his farm south of Crane "especially if we can keep the boys from girl watching," he added jovially.

The girls range in age from 14 to 17 and presently there are nine girls in the crew. They also have two all boy crews working beets according to Gene Severson manager of the State Employment Service. Hiring teenagers is not new — serveral years ago they employed youths for beet labor but under the old system the youths were dissatisfied.

The program is completely reorganized and now the youth are responsible for specific areas. "They seem to like it much better and the farmer can tell just who is responsible for certain areas.

The girls find the work "lots of fun" but complain about the windy weather. They find long hair is a detriment and realized work clothes should consist of shirts and jeans not sleeveless blouses and short shorts.

Included in the group are two of Sidney's A squad cheerleaders for next year, Billi Jan Panasuk and Carol Fisher. "It's a blast!" they both agree.

Financially they are paid acrording to the rows they work For the boys, Ron Bailey received $1.43 an hour. He was the highest paid. The boys average about 93 cents an hour and work an eight hour day. "The girls will probably be lower than that," said Severson, "but we are well pleased with the work they are doing and so are the farmers.

It's time for a breather. Carol Fisher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Fisher takes a break while thinning beets. Carol is one of many teenagers that are working beets for local farmers. Herald Photo

Sidney Local Office Area

State Employment Service Serves Both Employers and Employes

By ROY D. YOUNG, Montana State Employment Service

■ The basic objective of the farm placement program of the Montana State Employment Service is to maintain a year round farm placement service for agricultural workers and employers.

This service will provide adequate placement facilities for meeting labor requirements of agricultural and related fields, provide recruitment and placement of workers seeking employment, assist in the orderly and expeditious movement of migrant workers to successive jobs and supply both farm operators and workers with information regarding labor demands, wage trends and other information considered pertinent to modern day farm and ranch operations

These objectives are accomplished by:

Cooperating with employers in determining their needs for workers and in the recruitment of qualified workers to meet their needs.

Collecting and compiling information relating to and affecting the labor supply.

Facilitating the movement of workers from areas of supply to areas of demands and supply information to migrant workers relative to demand areas of employment.

Encouraging the provision of appropriate housing sanitary facilities and stable wages.

FROM TIME TO TIME questionnaires are submitted to select groups of farmers and ranchers in which inquiry is made as to needs and demands for seasonal hired workers for specific crop activities. From information received on return of these questionnaires the demand for workers is determined and compared with estimated supply of help on hand.

If estimated needs of hired help exceeds the supply, calls for additional help are made through the Central office in Helena to other offices in the state or to neighboring states if workers are not available within the state. With the recent establishment of the state telecommunication system, the local Employment Offices can make immediate and direct calls to one another and to the Central office in Helena. By this means, demands for additional hired help can be met by determining in which communities surplus help may be available.

In addition, during the growing and harvest seasons, crop information and data are collected and submitted to both the U.S. Department of Agriculture Reporting Service at Helena and the Bureau of Employment Security at Washington, D.C., through the Montana State Employment Service Central Office at Helena. This information is compiled on both a state wide and nationwide level for use in determining the utilization of farm labor for specific periods and crop activity involved.

DURING RECENT YEARS the State Employment Service, through its various local offices has stressed the need for upgrading of working and living conditions in attempts to encourage more dependable and better experienced workers to re-enter this field of work. As most interested parties know, the increased mechanication of farming operations and increased size and decreased number of farms has reduced the demands for outside hired help. By the same token, demand by farm operators for better qualified workers has risen.

In order to meet this demand, some means of inducement is needed to redevelop an interest in this type of work on the part of workers who meet qualifications required by employers. Thus far no regulations or standards have been set forth in the state of Montana regarding housing or sanitary standards. with the exception of rules and regulations covering importation of Mexican Nationals for sugar beet activities and Montana Sanitary Regulation 109. This sanitary regulation has been amended to cover agriculture and related fields.

Those farm and ranch employers who have made some endeavor to improve and maintain better living and sanitary conditions for their hired help have found that employment problems were greatly reduced. Surveys made by Employment Service personnel in recent ears have verified these facts. In practically all cases, it was found that periods of employment per man hired were of longer duration where standard or above wages and living conditions were supplied .

WE REALIZE that on an average only approximately 138 working days a year are required of seasonal workers to complete farming activities, but during this period very often inclement weather is experienced.

In spite of improvements in recent years, much is still desired in regard to improvements of facilities for itinerant workers. In an effort to assist farmers and ranchers in alleviating this housing problem, the Farmers Home Administration, under provisions in Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, was amended to provide rural housing loans. This law in part provides loans to farmers and ranchers to construct or repair housing and sanitary facilities for his tenants or farm labor.

Anaconda Local Office Area

Shown is Ben Gwynn, one of the ranchers of the Philipsburg area that continues to stack the majority of his hay loose using the beaver slide stacker. He employs approximately ten men during the haying season and one man the year round. Looking across his hay fields it reminds one of the land of the ten thousand hay stacks of the Big Hole Valley.

Helena Local Office Area

Old Fashioned Cattle

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Employment Security
ES-225 Table 1

Budget Bureau No. 44-R779.6

Table 1. Selected Data on Farm Placement Operations in 1966

Section A. Day-Haul Activities	
1. Operated by State agency:	
a. Day-haul points	0
b. Towns with day-haul points	0
c. Sum of workers transported on average day in each town	0
d. Sum of workers transported on peak day in each town	0
2. Established (unsupervised by State Agency):	
a. Day-haul points	2
b. Towns with day-haul points	2
c. Sum of workers transported on average day in each town	65
d. Sum of workers transported on peak day in each town	127
Section B. Services to School Age Youth	
3. Towns in which separate school age youth programs are operated	0
4. Day-haul points operated separately for school age Youth	0
a. Sum of school age youth workers transported on peak day in each town	0
5. Day-haul points established by State agency for school age youth	2
6. Supervised camps operated for school age farm workers	0
a. Placements in camp	0
7. Placements of school age youth in supervised live-in farm homes	0
Section C. Services to other special groups	
8. Services rendered to Indians by local offices oritinerant points on reservations:	
a. Placements	888
b. Applicant holding acceptances	57
9. Other placements of reservation Indians	721
Section D. Other special services	
10. Local offices which held farm clinics	0
11. Days on which farm clinics were held	0
12. Issues of farm labor bulletins published	23
a. Copies distributed	9,000
13. Work guides distributed	400
a. Within reporting State	215
b. To other States	215
14. Local offices participating in formal community service programs	6
15 Volunteer farm placement representatives	152

Montana State Employment Service

DIVISION OF
UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION
COMMISSION

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
SERVICE FOR EVERYONE
LOCAL · STATE · NATIONAL

AFFILIATED WITH
UNITED STATES
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

416 - 1st St.
Havre, Montana
Phone 265-4366

Dear Sir:

With spring and warmer weather just around the corner, we hope, the sheep raisers will be planning their work for early spring shearing and lambing operations.

We have been in contact with our local shearing crews, and they are in the process of getting ready for spring tagging and shearing. Last year these shearing crews ran into some difficulty in lining up their shearing and tagging by areas. When this happens a great loss of time and traveling expense is involved.

This year we are offering our assistance to help remedy this situation by contacting all the wool growers in the area by letter to obtain pertinent information in regards to when shearing is to be done. Then we can assist in getting you the shearers when you want them and when they are in your area.

Below are some questions we would appreciate your answering and returning to us in the enclosed self-addressed envelope, so we can have a more thorough record of needs of the wool grower's in our area, or you can call our office at 265-4366 in Havre.

1. How many sheep do you have to be sheared or tagged?

2. When will you be ready to shear or tag?

3. Who did your shearing last year?

4. Will you need men for lambing? How many? When?

Sincerely,

Tom Kuka, Manager
Havre Local Office

Great Falls Local Office Area

Sheep Shearing

As can be seen from the [illegible] are routed into the trailer up a ramp and kept behind a [illegible] ready to be sheared. Upon completion of the shearing of [illegible] small counterbalanced door is raised behind the shearer [illegible] loose into a portable pen for further disposal. The [illegible] which presently is not incorporated is the wool [illegible] for this section is to eliminate the need of the [illegible] of a hydraulic tamping device.

Great Falls Local Office Area

Sheep Shearing

A beauty parlor for sheep? Why not--poodles have parlors, cows are milked to music, and well groomed horses are housed in undercover arenas equipped with all the comforts of home.

Possibly the above pictures cannot be classed as a beauty parlor but in keeping with the streamlining of industry this compact unit allows a steady flow of sheep through the shearing or tagging process.

Great Falls Local Office Area

Sheep Shearing

This unit is built on a 8'X30' trailer frame and will accomodate four shearers capable of shearing 500 head per day. This plant is completely self contained with its own heating system plus a power and light plant.

With a clean modern plant such as this the shearers will always know under which conditions they will have to work no matter where they are called and the farmer or rancher will be assured of as clean a fleeces as possible.

II

Worksheet A. Day-haul activities, by town

( ) 1. At points operated by State Agency

(X) 2. At points established (unsupervised) by State Agency

Towns	Number of Day-Haul Points		Number of Workers Transported		
				Peak Day	
	Total	School Age Youth	Average Day	Total	School Age Youth
1	II	III	IV	V	VI
Sidney	1	1	20	27	27
Hamilton	1	1	45	100	100
	2	2	65	127	127

Rape has been used as an annual forage crop in Montana. It is most valuable as a summer pasture for hogs and sheep. The biennial variety *Dwarf Essex*, spring planted, is best for this purpose. Although the crop may find limited specialized use in Montana, it is not generally recommended.

Sidney Local Office Area

The attached picture shows John Burns spraying wheat for weeds in Richland County. The plane is traveling over 100 miles per hour and as you can see, the wheels are dipping into the wheat. Much of the wheat in this area is sprayed in this manner.

Wheat Harvest

RADIO PROGRAM FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 13, 1966

Good afternoon, this is Tom Kuka, Manager of the Havre Employment Service, with your Wednesday employment service news.

Today, I would like again to direct this time to the farmers and ranchers in Hill, Blaine and the north half of Choteau Counties.

Many of you farmers and ranchers are well into the first cutting of alfalfa and the harvest of wild hay, and will be needing help for hauling and stacking bales. At the present time we have several high school and college students that would like to get out and do some farm work.

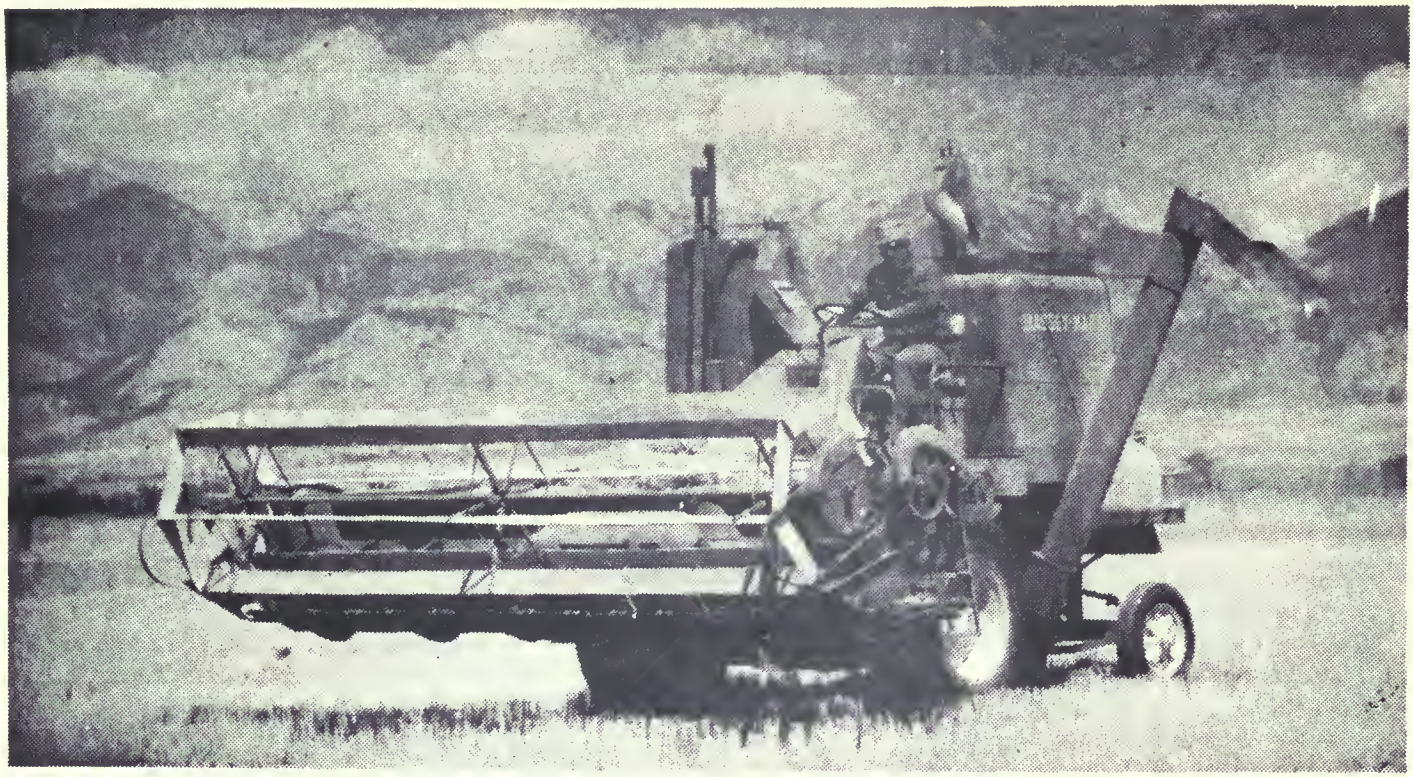
Last year we had some student crews that did a real good job in this hay work, so if and when you need some help be sure to contact our office at 416-1st street or call 265-4366.

The past few days we've also had some 10 to 15 men in seeking work as tractor and cat operators, so, if you need help be sure to contact our office.

This is Tom Kuka, saying, thanks for listening.

Cut Bank Local Office Area

Sheep Shearing



EARLY HARVEST — Lavon Carter, who lives southeast of Belgrade, Saturday finished combining 186 acres of winter wheat adjacent to the Gallatin airport property. It is believed to be one of the first harvesting operations in the county.

Harvested 7-31-66

Chronicle Photo.

Bozeman Local Office Area

TEN SECOND

RADIO SPOTS

Attention Hay Hands! Your Bozeman Employment Office is receiving calls daily for men to work in the hay fields. Here is a chance for youth to get summer employment! Contact your Farm Representative at 234 East Main Street.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Employment Security
ES-225 Table 4 (12/61)

Budget Bureau No 44-R779.6
State MONTANA

Table 4. Interstate Agricultural Migrant Activities in 1966

Section A Type	Migrant Contacts: By Reporting State	Migrant Contacts: With Reporting State's Residents	Section B Individuals represented: Age and Sex	Section B: In Sec. A., Col. III
I	II	III	I	II
a. Total	434	0	2. Total	4828
a. Crew Leaders	59	0	a. Male, 16 & over	1579
b. Family Heads	371	0	3. Under 16	1644
c. Other	4			

Section C	Worker Characteristics
1. Type	Number
2. 1	II
4. Families	611
5. Unattached males	135
6. Unattached females	29

Polson Local Office Area

Directions for Cherry Pickers

Montana State Employment Service

DIVISION OF
UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION
COMMISSION

AFFILIATED WITH
UNITED STATES
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

1000 First Avenue South
Great Falls, Montana

Dear Sir:

Have you made any preparation for having your hay custom stacked this year? If not, we strongly recommend that you give this some serious thought.

With a predicted shortage of experienced stackers this season there may be possibilities that recruitment of workers may have to be made from out-of-the-area.

We are therefore submitting this questionnaire to you asking that you return it as soon as possible giving us the information requested. If the survey indicates needs for workers from other areas, efforts will be made by us to recruit them for the work involved.

Sincerely,

Otto Peterson, Manager
Great Falls Local Office

I (will, will not) need a stacking crew to stack bales approximately July _____. I will have _____bales to stack. I will pay _____¢ per bale.

Signed _____

Helena Local Office Area

Mechanized Haying Sequence

MR. POTATO GROWER

Are You Ready To Process The 1965 Crop?

We Are Ready To Furnish You With Experienced Help

Available Are

SORTERS

GRADERS

SACK SEWERS

BUCKERS

CONTACT

Montana State Employment Service

427 First Ave. E. Kalispell

Telephone 756-5071

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Employment Security
Form ES-225 - Table 5

Budget Bureau No 44-R779.7
State MONTANA

Table 5 Interstate Seasonal Agricultural Clearance Activities in 1966

Item	Orders		Openings	
	Extended (Sec A) received (Sec B)	Filled	Extended (Sec A) received (Sec B)	Filled
I	II	III	IV	V
Section A. Reporting State as Order-Holding State				
Reporting State, total ...	11	7	1746	1742
Applicant-holding States Involved :				
Oklahoma - Texas	1	1	120	120
Texas	2	2	1115	1115
Utah	3	3	7	7
North Dakota - Minnesota	1	0	1	0
Idaho - Washington	3	0	3	0
Oregon-Washington-Idaho	1	1	500	500
Section B. Reporting State as Applicant-Holding State				
Reporting State, total ...	32 ~~61~~	6 ~~4~~	1329 ~~41,148~~	322 ~~1129~~
Order-holding States involved:				
California	0	0	0	7
Colorado	7	0	376	28
Idaho	4	4	63	78
Indiana	3	0	63	0
Illinois	1	0	500	14
Michigan	1	0	4	28
North Dakota	0	0	0	7
Ohio	0	0	0	96
Oregon	0	0	0	44
Texas	0	0	0	4
Washington	2	0	261	2
Wisconsin	7	1	31	7
Wyoming	7	1	31	7

Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

U.C.C. Building — Helena, Montana
Phone 442-3260 — Ext. 540

15M-5-65-4771

August 24, 1966 Number 20

E SUMMARY: Rain has curtailed harvest and other field activities in most areas of the State, prior to that combining has progressed rapidly under nearly ideal conditions. Winter wheat vest was 85% complete by August 19th, about two weeks ahead of last year's pace. Spring at was 60% harvested, 9 days ahead of last year. Current activities are irrigating, fencing, ing, summer fallowing, gen farm and ranch work. Labor supply meeting the demand in most areas.

D conditions change rapidly - Contact the nearest local office before leaving area.

Western

ACONDA: Activities; irrigation, stack fencing, and in the Deer Lodge valley, the starting of tting of the 2nd crop of alfalfa. In the Philipsburg area, there are a few ranchers still aying in the high mountain meadows. Labor supply meeting demand. Weather cool with showers.

TTE: Activities; farm and ranch maintenance and movement of cattle from summer ranges to ubble fields and irrigated hay meadows. Labor demand very light.

LON: Activities; haying, irrigating, fencing & herding. Labor supply meeting the demand.

MILTON: Activities; haying, irrigating & gen farm work. Due to slack period between harvests mand for labor has been slow. No shortages at the present time. Weather dry and cool.

LENA: Gen ranch, fencing, irrigation & some haying are main activities. No shortages of ngle help. Need good reliable couple, year-round work, good house, references needed, $275 p/mo d up BOA. Cool nights & warm days. Wages $175-$200 for singles B&R; couples $250-300 with using.

LISPELL: Activities; haying, irrigating & summer fallowing. GRAIN HARVEST Winter wheat rvest 70% complete, spring wheat 25% complete. Wages $1.25 -$1.75 p/hr. Supply meeting demand.

SSOULA: Weather warm & dry with cool nights. Haying & irrigating main activities. Labor pply continues to meet demand. WHEAT HARVEST: Winter wheat harvest completed. Spring wheat rvest well underway. Ideal weather conditions resulted in a fast, problem-free harvest. No mand for labor.

LSON: Weather cool & dry. Work continues in potatoes, grain & 2nd crop of hay. Haying out 90% complete. Labor meets demand. GRAIN HARVEST: Grain harvest about 50% completed. rain in lower valleys still green. Some grain down due to wind & rain. Will be late to rvest.

South Central

LLINGS: Activities; harvesting of spring grains, irrigating, haying, summer fallowing, encing, and soil prep for seeding of winter wheat. Shortages are: 1 farm couple $275-$300 p/mo lus housing and 2 single farmhands at $175-$200 p/mo B&R. Light to heavy rain throughout with derate temperatures prevailing. GRAIN HARVEST: Spring wheat is approx 85% completed with ields running from 40 to 75 bushels per acre for irrigated wheat. Barley is practically all arvested with irrigated yields running 55 to 60 bushels per acre. Dry land barley yields veraged 20 to 25 bushels per acre.

INGSTON: Activities; irrigating, fencing & completion of harvest. Some haying activity till remain in areas of wild hay. Second cutting of alfalfa will start in about 10 days but s expected to be light with little demand for additional workers. Warm days and very cool ights.

LEWISTOWN: Activities; completion of the harvest, summer fallowing & haying. Short 1 ranch handyman. Permanent job - starts at $175 p/mo B&R. Winter wheat harvest in last stage of completion. Spring wheat to start immediately. No shortage of help.

MONTANA STATE
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
P. O. BOX 1728
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FIRST CLASS MAIL

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
ACCOUNTED FOR UNDER
ACT OF CONGRESS

EMAN: Activities; haying, irrigation & grain harvest. Short 2 experienced, non-drinking, gle farm hands for year-round work. Wages $200 p/mo B&R. WHEAT HARVEST Grain harvest tinues. Small area in the immediate Bozeman area not ripe yet. Should ripen by end of k. Heavy rains curtailed combining. May commence again by August 23rd.

North Central

BANK: Activities; haying and machinery repair. Weather cool & rainy. HARVEST Due to rain and cool weather, harvest will be slow in starting. No shortage of men or machines.
SGOW: All activities stopped by heavy rains but haying, harvest & summer fallowing should ume when weather clears. Job openings being filled by transient labor. Short 1 farm couple h own trailer house to work with registered cattle, hogs & grain. Year around employment. loyer would pay good wages for a reliable man. 1 opening for sheepherder year around $150 l up DOA. HARVEST: Wet weather has halted harvest. Demand for workers will pick up when ather clears. Considerable crop is yet to be cut in the northern sections and students turning to school will create vacancies for additional men.
EAT FALLS: Activities; small grain harvest, summer fallowing, haying, seeding, and gen ranch k. Supply of farm hands meeting demand. Weather cool with some rain. Wages $8-10 p/da B&R r tractor operators, $175-225 p/mo B&R for gen ranch hands. Harvest wages $15 $20 p/da B&R r truck drivers and $20 to $25 p/da B&R for combine operators. HARVEST Small grain harvest mpleted in Ft Benton, Highwood, Geraldine & areas east and south of Great Falls, Dutton, Brady, oteau area about 40% complete. Area north of Teton River about 70% completed. No shortages.
VRE: Activities; summer fallowing & haying. Rain curtailed all activities. Wages $10 p/da R haying crews 5 & 6 ¢ bale B&R or 7¢ and board selves. HARVEST: Harvest 90% completed in x Elder and south Havre areas. Rain curtailed all harvesting until middle of the week. Wages .5 p/da B&R for truck drivers and $18-$25 p/da B&R for experienced combine operators.
LF POINT: Rain stopped all harvest and other field work. From 2-3 inches rain fell through e area. Shortages of machines and harvest workers as soon as cutting resumes
ELBY: Activities; second cutting of alfalfa, harvesting and bale stacking. Labor supply eeting demand. HARVEST: .6 inches of rain temporarily halted harvest. Warming trend fore- sted which should resume harvesting activities causing a shortage of workers. Wages $15 p/da r truck drivers & $20 p/da for combine operators B&R. Custom cutters are short handed and aying $1.25 for truck drivers and $1.50 for combine operators - sickle time.

Eastern

DNEY: Activities; harvest, haying and preparation for seeding winter wheat. Weather wet ith continuing shower activity. No shortage of farm hands. HARVEST Grain harvest 90% ompleted. All custom machines have left the area.
LENDIVE: Activities; summer fallowing, combining of spring wheat & irrigating. Weather cool nd damp. Short 1 farm couple. $225-250 p/mo plus housing. HARVEST Spring wheat harvest is oving along. Barley harvest getting started. No shortage of men or machines.
ILES CITY: Weather cool with rain. Activities have been delayed by rain. Short 3 ranch ands; wages $175 p/mo B&R. Wheat harvest has been completed.

Farm Group Okays Wage Standards

A standardized wage agreement for farm workers was established by the Stillwater Grain Growers Association at a meeting Wednesday in the Broadview School.

Association members will adhere to the wages and hours established when hiring farm employes.

"It's really a step forward for farm labor," said Clarence Nybo, manager of the Montana State Employment Service.

The agreement, for single farm workers, sets up:

—A $250 a month salary, plus board and room, for a 10-hour day.

—A salary of $10 a day plus board and room and 10-hour day.

—A salary of $1.50 an hour plus board and room.

—A salary of $1.50 an hour without board and room and unlimited hours.

No wage standards were established for married couples because of the many variables involved, Nybo said.

The agreement should result in better qualified farm workers, Nybo said.

"If specific agricultural area is reported to have good wages and working conditions, the word gets around," Nybo added.

He hopes it will happen here and attract top farm workers.

Nybo said he expects adjustments will have to be made after the group gains experience. Other items, such as hiring college students during haying season, will be discussed at future meetings.

Wages in the Billings area are generally higher than for most places for farm workers, Nybo said. The newly established wages are more competitive and are better than formerly, he said.

The group is also arranging a farm workers boarding house in Broadview. Mrs. Fae Grussing has expressed interested in operating the boarding house, Nybo said.

Max Conover, president of the Montana Grain Growers Association, said the group's pilot project in establishing farm wages had the support of the state association.

These photos were taken on the Mel McDowell Ranch just west of Wisdom. Mr. McDowell, as other ranchers in the area, use cats and dozers to clear the deep snow for roads and feeding areas then either use horses or snow plans to travel from feed lot to feed lot. This type of feeding has cut the need for ranch hands during the winter feeding period.

C. L. Garner

C. L. Garner, Manager
Butte Local Office

Butte Local Office Area

The attached photos illistrate a machine that has shortened the hay loading time in the Big Hole Valley.

This machine was designed and is manufactured by a man now living in Jackson, Montana. He was a ranch hand and a blacksmith for many years around the Wisdom area.

The main point of this machine is that it operates just like a gaint human hand and arm. It is controlled by 7 hydrolic cylinders that swing, bend, turn, open and close the fingers. It is used to pull hay from the stack and dump it on a rack.

Beet harvest in Missoula County is well underway and will come to a final conclusion under American Crystal Sugar Company in this area when this year's crop is out of the ground.

American Crystal Sugar Company decided not to operate the factory this year due to the fact that they could not contract enough acreage to warrant maintaining a processing plant in Missoula County.

1966 was a fair year for growth of sugar beets with plenty of warm weather and the five growers with about 170 acres in Missoula County report fifteen to nineteen tons per acre. The past three or four years have been trying times for growers here and more and more difficulties with labor, higher overhead costs, and weather conditions have brought about the declination of sugar beet acreage.

Processing of Missoula's sugar beets will be done in Billings and at the present time are being stockpiled at the local factory site.

Sugar beet activity for 1967 in Missoula County is being considered by another company and if a feasible plan can be worked out, sugar beets may continue to be raised in this area.

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Agricultural activity in and around Missoula consists mainly of wild and alfalfa hay and cattle, including registered herefords and angus as well as the non-registered cattle.

Handling of hay harvest is becoming more mechanized as time goes on and consequently, less hand labor is required. A shortage of moisture during 1966 resulted in a somewhat short hay crop which will eliminate the sale of surplus hay, but supplies of hay are sufficent to take care of each individual livestock grower's needs locally.

Lack of moisture in this area is causing quite a little concern about the condition of summer range feed supply and has resulted in a little earlier movement of cattle from these ranges to feed lots and supplemental feeding.

Hay is put up mainly in loose stacks or baled, although some is chopped and fed aa a silage. Hay is stored in fields or placed in hay sheds. Most farmers have feeding operations set up so indifidual family members can feed 300 to 400 head of cattle in four or five hours per day, so mechanization is playing a big part in this occupation, also,

Nearing completion in Sanders County is harvesting of bumper 1966 hay crop. Not all hay is put into bales as some ranchers put part of their crop into silage as this Belknap rancher is doing here. After hay is cut and windrowed chopper shown above, picks up hay, cuts it and blows it into truck.

Chopped hay to form silage can be stored in the familiar above-ground siles or in pits dug into ground. Here worker helps unload silage into a pit. This milage will be used as cattle feed throughout the winter.

Good Beet Tonnage - Billings Area
(photo by Billings Gazette)